

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 56

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 125

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 14, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 56, Alarcon. Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim October 15 as Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and would urge all community-based organizations, religious communities, civic groups, health care providers, elected officials, and government agencies to utilize this day to raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Latino community.

WHEREAS, Local social marketing efforts with appropriate AIDS education to reach Latinos need to be expanded; and

WHEREAS, Latinos make up 14 percent of the population of the United States and United States territories, but account for 20 percent of AIDS cases nationally; and

WHEREAS, AIDS and HIV pose a threat to national public health and there are more than 130,000 people presently living with AIDS in California; and

WHEREAS, The proportion of newly diagnosed Latino AIDS cases in California has been increasing over the last decade and in 2002 they represented 22,594 cumulative AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, Among anonymous testers, Latino men who have sex with men have the highest rate of new HIV infections of all racial or ethnic groups and make up the second highest number of AIDS cases diagnosed in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Among male-to-female transgendered persons, Latinas are a high-risk group for HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, National rates of Latinas exposed to AIDS has climbed from 15 percent to 23 percent over the last 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Among people 13 to 24 years of age, Latino youth in California make up the highest percentage of AIDS cases diagnosed since the beginning of the AIDS and HIV epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Latinos see AIDS as one of the most important health issues facing the Nation. Yet many Latinos have misconceptions about HIV transmission that must be addressed through targeted prevention efforts using culturally and linguistically appropriate health information; and

WHEREAS, Many Latinos lack health insurance and are not connected to traditional social service and health care networks, thereby making them more vulnerable to this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Latino AIDS Awareness Day brings an opportunity to increase community awareness and dialogue, to commemorate those lost, and to bring leaders together to advocate for greater services and community involvement to fight this epidemic; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby proclaims October 15 as Latino AIDS Awareness Day in California, and urges all community-based organizations, religious communities, civic groups, health care providers, elected officials, and government agencies to utilize this day to raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Latino community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.